

Markey de-alerting letter to House, November 4, 1999:

**The Alarm is Set for January 1, 2000:
Will it Go Off with a Nuclear Bang?**

Dear Colleague:

There are 58 days remaining until the beginning of the new millennium and the United States and Russia still maintain their nuclear arsenals at a "launch-on-warning" status. At "hair-trigger" alert status, leaders from the United States and Russia have less than 30 minutes to decide whether an attack reading is credible and launch a retaliatory strike. In the event of a false reading, made more likely by potential Y2K bugs in Russian command and control systems, is this enough time to make a reliable decision?

As people all over the world prepare to celebrate the new millennium, they are making their resolutions for the new year. Military leaders from the United States and Russia are also making lists for the new millennium. We need to ensure that removing the threat of accidental nuclear war is at the top of their lists. H.Con.Res. 177 would urge the President to take our nuclear arsenal off hair-trigger alert and to negotiate agreements with Russia to do the same. This would eliminate the threat of an accidental nuclear war.

As the world celebrates the new year, there will be fireworks and celebrations unrivaled in the last century. If you want to ensure that the only bright lights on January 1, 2000 will be from harmless sparklers - not nuclear weapons -- cosponsor H.Con.Res. 177.

To cosponsor, or for more information, contact Mr. Greg Jaczko in Rep. Markey's office at x5-2836.

Sincerely,

Edward J. Markey
Lynn Woolsey
Dennis J. Kucinich